judgement within certain specified parameters. This is applicable to all industries including the fertilizer industry. However, for the fertilizer industry, which operates under a Retention-cum-Subsidy Scheme, it would still be necessary for Government to satisfy itself on the proveness of technology and its effectiveness in terms of cost per unit of production, efficiency parameters in operation, etc., so that the cost of production and the subsidy outgo are the minimum.

Fertilizer subsidy

1177. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total amount of subsidy being paid on indigenous fertilizers and imported fertilizers at present;

(b) whether Government propose to reduce/abolish both the subsidies: and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) The Budget provision of fertilizer subsidy to be paid during the current financial year 1991-92 on indigenous and imported fertilizers is Rs. 3500 crores and Rs. 1300 crores, respectively.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Initiation of cases against pharmaceutical companies

1178. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases have been initiated against the pharmaceutical companies namely M/s. Carews Pharmaceuticals, M/s. Albert David and M/s. Novocole for overcharging the drugs namely combriam Analflam and Megadol respectively: and

(b) if so, what progress has been made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) and (b) In the case of M/s. Carews Pharmaceuticals, a tentative liability of Rs 7-11 crores was communicated to the company with the advise to deposit the same with the Government. The company has, however, obtained an interim stay in the matter from the Calcutta High Court. In the remaining two cases despite reminders, the concerned companies are not furnishing the details required by the Government to determine the overcharged amount, if any. The concerned State Drugs Controllers have been requested to use powers of para 23 of DPCO, 1987 to ensure that the requisite details are made available to the Government.

Foreign exchange requirement for import of fertilizers

1179. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign exchange requirement for the import of fertilizers in 1992-93 would be about Rs. 7000 crores;

(b) what is the total sum required to revamp the public sector fertiliser units proposed to be wound up for being sick; and

(c) If so, which of the two is beneficial for the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMI-

CALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The broad assessment indicates that the overall requirements of foreign exchange for the import of fertilizers, intermediates and raw-materials in 1992-93 is expected to be around Rs. 6000 crores. The exact requirement, however, would depend on the level of actual consumption in the current year and the opening stock available in the system as on 1-4-92.

(b) and (c) Final decision has not been taken by Government to wind up the sick units.

Representation by All India Small Drugs Manufacturers Association

1180. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received any representation from the All India Small Drugs Manufacturer's Association against the abolition of loan licence manufacturing of drugs and if so, what are the details;

(b) whether this abolition has rendered lakhs of people jobless and caused loss in production of essential drugs and if so, what are the details;

(c) what is the percentage of export of bulk drugs and formulations from the small scale sector drug units; and

(d) what are the steps taken by Government to safeguard the export potential of the small scale drug producers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) The representation highlighted various factors like existing investment, production, employment etc. for advocating the continuance of the system. The matter is currently subjudice.

(c) Sectorwise exports of drugs are not being monitored.

(d) The information will be collected from the Ministry of Commerce and placed on the Table of the House.

Setting up of Ammonia Plant

1181. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether FCI has submitted a proposal for acting up an Ammonia Plant; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCI) sent proposal to either revamp the existing plant at Gorakhpur or put up a new 900/1500 tpd ammonia urea plant at Gorakhpur. FCI has been asked to expedite the health study of the existing plant and send recommendations of their Board of Directors whether they would like to go in for revamp of the existing plant or would prefer a new plant. The report in this regard is awaited from FCI.

Bureau of industrial costs and prices

1182. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3085 given in Rajya Sabha on 19th December, 1991 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BICP is using isolated invoices and not the average rates of three to six months for working out bulk drug prices;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;